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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/617,062	07/10/2003	Brian Muscat	706598US1	2644

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DAIMLERCHRYSLER INTELLECTUAL CAPITAL CORPORATION
CIMS 483-02-19
800 CHRYSLER DR EAST
AUBURN HILLS, MI 48326-2757

EXAMINER

HOOK, JAMES F

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3754

DATE MAILED: 03/09/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/617,062

Applicant(s)

MUSCAT ET AL.

Examiner

James F. Hook

Art Unit

3754

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 09 December 2004.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1 and 7-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Fritz. The patent to Fritz discloses the recited power steering hose comprising a hose member 2 having a first and second end, a member 6 formed as a cylindrical band around the hose member is provided to aid in the damping of pulsations and is disposed between the ends of the hose member, where the member can be moved to various positions between the ends to change the manner in which it helps dampen noise (col. 4, lines 60-69), where the band inherently has a bore operable to receive the hose, the band is made of flexible material which can be bent and crimped to engage the hose member, where such is a rigid material, when crimped is smaller than the outer diameter of the hose at portions thereof, and at the ends of the band that aren't crimped is approximately equal to the diameter of the hose.

Claims 1-4, 7, and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Opperthausen. The mention of power steering in the preamble does not breathe life into the body of the claim and therefore holds no patentable weight, and such is also merely intended use. The patent to Opperthausen discloses an article for use with a hydraulic hose which is considered the equivalent of a power steering hose which is

Art Unit: 3754

also hydraulic that provides damping properties, the article comprising a hose member 14 having first and second ends, a damper structure 42 disposed between ends of the hose, the damper comprising a cylindrical main body having a longitudinal axis, a bore formed in the main body along the longitudinal axis, the bore receives the tube member, a slot formed by edges 48,50 is provided extending from the outer surface of the main body and terminating in the bore, the width of the slot is smaller than the diameter of the bore, the hose is made of flexible material and engages the bore, the main body can be formed with a flat planar surface near 100 or along its sides, and the diameter of the bore is approximately equal to the outer diameter of the hose. The clamping element of Oppertthausen is seen to be provided on a track 62 and is therefore considered to be capable of being adjustably moveable and since such is disposed between the ends of the hose member are moveable there between.

Claims 5, 6, 9, and 11-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Oppertthausen. The patent to Oppertthausen discloses all of the recited structure with the exception of providing the planar surface near the slot, the diameter of the bore being smaller than the hose or the hose having a larger diameter than the bore, and the method of compressing the hose to pass it into the slot rather than opening the main body. It is considered to be a mere choice of mechanical design to provide the planar portion on any part of the body where such would only require a change in shape of the main body and would only require routine skill in the art, where such would reduce the extend of the main body and thereby save space. The change in dimensions of the diameter of the bore or hose are considered merely mechanical

expedients where one skilled in the art would only require routine experimentation to arrive at optimum size values. With respect to the method it is considered merely a reversal of steps to compress the hose to fit it through the slot rather than opening the slot as such is merely a reversal of the steps where such would only require routine skill in the art to understand that the hose could be collapsed instead of forcing open the main body to get the hose into the bore.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed December 9, 2004 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. The arguments directed toward Engle are moot, in that this rejection has been dropped. With respect to Oppertthausen, such is considered adjustable as set forth above when the bands can be moved along a track and are attached between the ends of the hose, thereby still meeting the claim language. There were no separate arguments directed toward the rejection under 35 USC 103 other than those arguments directed toward the independent claims, and such have been addressed above, therefore there appears applicant did not find the rejection in error.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. The patents to Sherman, Pfaller, and Turner disclosing state of the art clamped cushions.

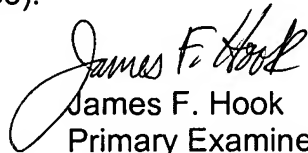
THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to James F. Hook whose telephone number is (571) 272-4903. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Wednesday, work at home Thursdays.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael Mar can be reached on (571) 272-4906. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


James F. Hook
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3754

JFH